

Board Highlights: October 23-24, 2024

2025 Elections of Delegate and Board Positions

In preparation for the upcoming 2025 elections, the Ontario Pork Board of Directors has approved revisions to the election handbook. The previous handbook, developed in 2023, was designed for the transitional elections held in 2024 following updates to Regulation 403/10 Hogs – Plan. The latest revisions reflect the regular election process moving forward.

The updated handbook outlines the election rules as established by the Farm Products Marketing Act, Regulation 403/10 Hogs – Plan, and Ontario Pork Producers' Marketing Board By-law No. 2 - Elections. Elections for delegate and Board member positions will take place in Zones 3 and 4 in January-February 2025. Additionally, one at-large Board position, representing pork producers across Ontario, will be up for election at the Ontario Pork annual general meeting on March 26, 2025. Further details will be shared with pork producers in advance of the 2025 election cycle.

Temporary Foreign Workers Program Update

The Board of Directors received information about the federal government's Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) program consultation process and Ontario Pork's work to identify swine sector issues regarding the program. Employment and Social Development Canada has released its second of six discussion papers, for public consultation, with a focus on the occupational scope of the new Agriculture and Fish Processing Stream. The proposed scope of the new stream is currently limited to low-skilled work (as defined by the National Occupational Classification system as TEER 4 and 5 positions), which generally only require on-the-job training with no formal educational prerequisites. This requirement aligns with the planned work around the new stream-specific work permit, which proposes providing temporary foreign workers the ability to work in jobs included under the proposed new stream, without obtaining a new work permit and having to reassess the worker's qualifications. As with the first discussion paper on 12 proposed baseline health and safety housing requirements, Ontario Pork will work with Ontario Pork Industry Council and producers to develop a submission.

Resolutions Process

The Ontario Pork Board of Directors has approved the revised terms of reference for the Resolution Committee to align with the updated resolutions process policy, which was changed earlier this summer. Beginning with the 2025 resolutions process, all resolutions will be presented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and then debated during Policy Day. The updated policy includes a provision for time-sensitive resolutions, which the Resolution Committee may recommend to the Board for immediate debate at the AGM. Resolutions can now be submitted to the Board at any time, allowing for ongoing engagement and consideration of industry issues throughout the year. The updated resolution process will be introduced at the presidents' and secretaries' meeting in December and then shared with all delegates.

Strategic Planning

The Ontario Pork Board has officially commenced its strategic planning process. During the first session, the Board reviewed feedback provided by members at Policy Day, which will play a key role in shaping the future strategy. Additionally, the Board developed a roadmap for the strategic planning process, outlining the steps to be taken in the coming months to address industry priorities and develop the plan.